

the meaningful work they do for the senior community in Austin and commend them for their commitment to providing high-end, quality care to their residents.

Westminster will always hold a special place in my heart, as they cared for my mother in her final days. I want to thank the doctors, nurses, and all the staff for the love and care they provided her during her time with them.

Since 1967, Westminster has provided life care, residential services, and state-of-the-art healthcare to thousands of residents who have trusted and relied upon their facilities and staff. To reach this milestone, Westminster's staff has worked tirelessly to ensure that their residents receive the care they need while also providing a comforting place to live during retirement.

The high quality of care and standard of living for the residents of Westminster has garnered national attention and led to a recognition as a Top 25 "Best in Wellness" Senior Living Community in North America by the ICAA. This continued commitment to serving their residents in Austin illustrates the value that they serve in this community.

For 55 years, Westminster Retirement Community has diligently served the senior population in Austin to ensure that its residents live a long, healthy, and joyous life. Westminster has become the reliable institution that it is today due to its effort and acute attention to the care of its residents.

I want to recognize Westminster on their 55th anniversary and I commend them for the outstanding work they do for the retirement community in Austin.

TRIBUTE TO VOORHEES COLLEGE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY AND RENAMING

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2022

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a proud historically Black college, in South Carolina's 6th Congressional District, on the occasion of its 125th Founder's Day. Voorhees College has provided educational opportunities for young African Americans in South Carolina since 1897 and on April 7, 2022 will be renamed Voorhees University.

Voorhees is the first HBCU founded by an African-American woman, Elizabeth Evelyn Wright, under the name Denmark Industrial School on April 14, 1897. When Ms. Wright founded the school, at the young age of 23, her vision was to provide a quality education to young men and women.

Ms. Wright's vision for the school grew, and in 1902, it became Voorhees Industrial School, after attracting the financial support of New Jersey philanthropist Ralph Voorhees. Mr. Voorhees and his wife donated money for the purchase of 280 acres of land in Denmark, South Carolina to expand the campus. More support came in 1924, when the school came under the auspices of the American Church Institutes for Negroes, which was part of the Episcopal Church.

In 1928, the name was changed to Voorhees Normal and Industrial School, reflecting its addition of a junior college. In 1946, the

junior college became the first Black college in South Carolina accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In December 1962, the institution became known as Voorhees College. The high school was closed, and, in 1967, Voorhees began granting 4-year degrees.

The students on Voorhees College's campus, like many other historically Black institutions, became engaged in the 1960's civil rights activities. In 1969, students occupied the Wilkinson Hall offices of the mostly white administration to protest their failure to hire additional Black faculty and provide more scholarships to low-income students from the Denmark community.

The difference between this and other college protests was that, having seen the shooting of student protestors on the nearby South Carolina State College campus the previous year, the students armed themselves. Their actions drew national media attention. After two days, the South Carolina National Guard forced the students to end their protest. Many were arrested and suspended. Some received jail sentences of 18 months to two years. All of them went on to complete their degrees.

Despite the tumultuous times, Voorhees College has always followed Elizabeth Evelyn Wright's vision for the school, "to try to help my fellow man to help themselves, and if a way was not open for them, I must open it myself." It was in that spirit in December 2021, that the Southern Association of College and School Commission on Colleges approved Voorhees Master's degree program, setting in motion today's historic renaming to Voorhees University.

Voorhees College, under the leadership of Dr. Ronnie Hopkins, the tenth President, continues to offer its students a quality, comprehensive, general education, coupled with professional education, in a value-centered liberal arts tradition. Its mission is, "to produce highly qualified graduates who coalesce intellect and faith in pursuit of life-long learning, healthy living, the betterment of society, and an abiding faith in God." This mission is deeply imbedded in the hearts and minds of faculty, staff and students allowing students to combine intellect and faith as they broaden their minds and prepare for their futures.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in celebrating the 125th anniversary of Voorhees College and its new status as Voorhees University. May it continue to build upon the vision of its founder and serve as an exemplary example of higher education.

AWNEE MONTANO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Awnee Montano for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Awnee Montano is a 12th grader at Northglenn High School and received this award because their determination and hard work have allowed them to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Awnee Montano is exemplary of the type of achieve-

ment that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Awnee Montano for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt they will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of their future accomplishments.

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF MRS. IRENE BURRUS

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor Mrs. Irene Burrus on the joyous and momentous occasion of her 99th birthday on March 31, 2022.

Irene has been a supporter, trusted advisor and personal friend of mine since I was a mere kid. I thank God for her and her incredible love, passion, and sincere care for our community at large.

Mrs. Irene Burrus has been a tireless volunteer in the New Orleans community for more than 50 years. She is a leader and possesses the skills to involve her friends and neighbors in the causes and organizations she believes in. Her kindness and empathy for others makes her a respected member of her community and has inspired many to follow in her service to others.

Irene was married to the deceased John Burrus, who served our country and was awarded the Navy Cross by President Harry S. Truman. She became involved in many causes for our military and veterans throughout the State of Louisiana.

Irene worked at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center for over thirty years. She has shared an unwavering love and dedication for the city of New Orleans with everyone she encountered. In 2013, at the age of 89, she volunteered three days of her time to welcoming people from over the world to the activities surrounding Super Bowl XLVII. She is well-known to serve breakfast to law enforcement every Mardi Gras.

A stalwart figure in Louisiana's volunteer circles, Irene was awarded the Heroism of the Year award by the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations and was one of the first five inductees into the Algiers Wall of Fame for her community service to Algiers and New Orleans.

Irene's service to causes and organizations is unmatched. She is a member of the Algiers Police Advisory Group, the Welcome Neighbors Organization, the Morning Kiwanis Club, the Algiers Economic Development Foundation, the Tall Timbers Garden Club, the Algiers Development District, the Algiers Charter School Association for Fundraising, the Military Wives Organization, the Old Aurora Neighborhood Association, the Historic French Quarter Easter Parade, the Algiers Republican Women, the Louisiana Republican Women, and the Algiers Courthouse Board of Directors.

Throughout her life, Irene has been "Shero" to the countless families she has helped along